

c.) **Amendments to the claims:**

Please amend claims 1, 2 and 4 as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method of generating virus-free plants characterized in that a domy tissue formed by culturing the foliage leaf base of a plant infected with a virus that propagates via scaly bulbs or bulbs is isolated and cultured.

Claim 2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein an explant comprising the foliage leaf base from which the shoot apex and foliage leaves have been removed is cultured in the absence of plant hormones to form a domy tissue.

Claim 3. (original) The method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said foliage leaf base is a section from the joint to a part 1-3 mm lower therefrom of a foliage leaf.

Claim 4. (currently amended) The method according to anyone of claims 1 to 3 claim 1 or 2 wherein the plant that propagates with scaly bulbs or bulbs is a plant of the genus Allium.

Claim 5. (original) The method according to claim 4 wherein the Allium plant is *Allium sativum*.